

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEPARTMENT HOSTILE, U. S. NEWSPAPERS SAY

Protest They Are Willing for Government to Take All Profits If Other Businesses Will Agree, But Object to Being Forced Into Bankruptcy; Committee Asserts P. O. Department Has Policy to Illicit Papers.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 14.—Newspaper publishers here today protested to the senate finance committee against the increase in second class mail rates by application of the parcel post zone system, proposed by the \$1,500,000,000 war tax bill.

The committee also considered the measure's provisions for stamp and estate and inheritance taxes, to which there were many objections. The house resumed debate on the bill and leaders hoped for its passage early in the week.

"Cold Blooded Proposition."

A statement prepared by a committee of the American Newspaper Publishers' association, headed by Don C. Smith, of the New York World, said the proposed postal increase was a "cold blooded proposition to close the mails" to newspapers and would result in so much loss in circulation, especially among farmers, that postal income would decrease and the rural carrier system would entail an even greater loss than at present.

Oppose Prussian Methods.

The newspapers are ready to meet a real, honest tax, said the statement, "to the point of presenting to the government all profits, provided other lines of business are asked to do the same, but if it is the purpose of the government to establish a non-competitive, do-as-we-please, charge-as-we-please postoffice monopoly it is difficult to see why the Sherman law should be allowed to stand or why we should speak disparagingly of Prussianism."

Increase of 100 to 600 Percent.

The proposed increase, the statement said, "is not a war tax but an effort to further repress and embarrass the newspaper industry. The rate proposed is an increase of from 100 to 600 percent, an increase beyond precedent."

"The newspaper business is today the most heavily loaded in the country," it says. "The highest wages, the cost of protection, the cost of the product at the lowest cost our country will permit and always at a fixed price. It cannot well pass the load along or change from day to day as the merchant meets price rises."

ENLARGE TO FULL STRENGTH IS ORDER; FORM NEW REGIMENTS

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 14.—Expansion of the regular army to the full war strength contemplated in the administration bill has been authorized by president Wilson. Organization of the new regiments will begin tomorrow. About 50,000 of the 132,000 men to be added to the army already have been recruited.

Orders increasing all regular army organizations to war strength were received in El Paso from southern department headquarters Monday and division headquarters immediately issued instructions to carry out the order. As a result the infantry regiments will be increased to 5000 men, cavalry to 1800 and artillery to 1500. The additional men will be drawn from the thousands of recruits who have been sent to El Paso. So far the recruits have been assigned to the

FULL PROPHECY; CHRIST IS DUE HERE

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 14.—The "Signs of the times" declare the second coming of Christ is near at hand," Dr. George S. Newell, pastor of the Third Presbyterian church, declared in a sermon here.

"We now have reached a time when the 'gospel' has been preached in every nation," said Dr. Newell. "And not only are the Jews returning to Palestine, but they are gathering material to rebuild Solomon's temple."

"Paul's description in Second Timothy, 2-1 and 4, of the 'perilous times' before Christ's second coming fits our own age. This is a time of great catastrophes, of earthquakes, fires, battles and plagues."

"The disobedience of children to parents has increased alarmingly in the last half century. In thousands of homes no grace is said at meal time. Then, people are becoming lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

"This also is a blasphemous age. A child can say five blocks on an errand without hearing profanity and obscene things."

"In spite of our boasted morality there are 1,000,000 prostitutes in the United States."

"The turning away of Christians from their faith as spoken of in Timothy is being fulfilled. There has been no time at which

CHICAGO GRAIN BROKERS END TRADES; BOARD HALTS WHEAT DEALINGS TWO DAYS

CHICAGO, Ill., May 14.—Drastic action to curb speculation in grain was taken here today by the board of the board of trade and by grain commission houses acting independently.

The most important action was taken by the brokers themselves. Three of the biggest houses announced that until further notice they would accept no buying orders for wheat, corn, oats or provisions. Others promised similar action.

The hour of trade followed up its action of Saturday in eliminating speculation in May wheat by forbidding it in May corn and oats. It also prohibited trading in July and September wheat until Wednesday, pending a conference of grain exchanges called to take place here tomorrow.

Other Exchanges Act.

Similar action was taken by the exchanges at Minneapolis, Kansas City, Toledo and Duluth.

Traders by the board's ruling were allowed to sell futures and to adjust existing trades at prices under a maximum of \$1.41-1-2 for May corn and \$1.12-1-2 for May oats. The maximum on May wheat was fixed Saturday at \$2.18. The result on prices of the various rolling was to see wheat prices down 22 to 24 cents during the forenoon, while corn advanced 7-8 to 11¢ and oats six cents.

Only boards where futures are traded in were invited to attend the conference, as follows: Duluth, Minneapolis, Toledo, Kansas City, St. Louis and Winnipeg.

The Official Statement.

The official statement of the meeting given out by president Griffin follows:

"At a special meeting of the board of directors held this morning, it was decided to discontinue all trading in May corn and May oats. It was further decided that for a period of two days to purchases of wheat, wheat, corn and oats, except to liquidate existing contracts. The latter action automatically forbids any individual firm, corporation or government from bidding up the price of wheat. The directors further restricted the operation in wheat by confining those dealers desiring to close existing contracts to a maximum price which is based on Saturday's close."

Allied Representatives Consulted.

The action of the board has been taken after consultation with the accredited representatives of the allied governments. Likewise, every step followed by us has been in cooperation with this government."

Closing Prices Last Saturday:

Wheat—July, \$2.75 to \$2.76; September, \$2.44 to \$2.45.

Corn—May, \$1.41-1-2; July, \$1.43-3-4

GUARDIANS OF TEXAS' CASH ARE ARMING IN SPECIAL TRIPS

Bankers From All Parts of State Assembling to Hold 33rd Annual Convention; Commerce Chamber, Local Bankers and Woman's Club Committees Welcome Visitors; Butler's Banquet Tonight.

MOST of the money in Texas, as represented by the banks of the state, will sleep in El Paso tonight. The 33rd annual convention of the Texas Bankers' association will begin here Tuesday morning, with more than 1000 delegates and visitors in attendance.

It will end Thursday afternoon. The first of the visitors began arriving in small groups Sunday night. Monday morning at 11:30 o'clock the first special train rolled into the union station, with several hundred bankers and their families aboard. It was a Texas & Pacific special and originated in Fort Worth. It brought bankers from the northern section of the state.

Second Special at 5 p. m.

This afternoon a second special is due over the G. H. & S. A. railway. This train is scheduled to arrive at 5 o'clock and will bring many visitors from south and central Texas. It originated in Houston and is composed of 12 Pullman coaches, baggage and observation cars. Chamber of commerce officials and members of the El Paso Bankers' association will meet the train at the station. The second train will be met by the same group. A. F. Kert, chairman of the reception committee, and the 12 Pullman coaches will also include representatives of all banking institutions in El Paso, welcomed the arrivals and conducted them to the hotels.

Patriotism Will Predominate.

All signs indicate this will be the most patriotic convention ever held by the Texas association. Although none of the formal speeches scheduled for the three-day business session will bear directly on the war, it is probable that most of the informal discussions will be of the patriotic type. The buttons to be worn by the delegates and the dinner menu will also include the American flag. The downtown section of El Paso is lined with the national colors. Even Overland street, which has rarely been decorated for

various arms of service in which they enlisted but not to regiments.

Adds 11,000 Men Here.

The order will result in 5000 men being added to the infantry forces here, 400 to the cavalry and 1700 to the artillery forces.

A special train of 100 recruits from Joplin, Mo., arrived here Sunday afternoon. The recruits were assigned to the cavalry arm.

Organize Three New Regiments.

Orders were received at military headquarters Monday from the war department to create new increments of the army Tuesday. These new regiments will consist of one each of infantry, cavalry and artillery.

In entire army the new increments will consist of 27 regiments of infantry, eight of cavalry and four of field artillery.

The organization of the new regiments at El Paso will be conducted by commanding officers here. Officers and enlisted men from the regular organizations stationed here will be withdrawn from present commands and be incorporated in the new organizations.

EL PASO SUNK; 300 ARE SAVED

New York, May 14.—The British passenger ship Medina, a 12,350-ton vessel, owned by the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation company, was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine April 23 when off the coast of Plymouth, according to American passengers arriving here today from England.

On the same day in almost the same locality, the Omaha, a vessel of 8130 tons, owned by the Orient Steam Navigation company, was also torpedoed and sunk, the passengers were rescued.

On the Medina were more than 300 persons, passengers and crew.

Code on Negro Is Answer to Herald Ads

A "code" found by the city detectives in the pockets of a negro arrested last night by the police Sunday morning, proved to be a list of answers to misapprehensions of the negroes' word page of the West-End Herald of May 5.

The negro was working for a 15 prize offered for the best nearest correct solution of the spelling.

When the detectives arrested the negro and found these answers, it was given out that he was carrying a secret code about with him.

Women Find Account Book Hurts Work

CHI. GO., Ill., May 14.—The budget system for the household is a rank failure, if the experience of members of the Transition Woman's club count for anything.

After deciding to try the budget system to keep down expenses, a meeting, when the women would report their success, was called off because there was only rank failure to report.

"I know how to spend my money economically, but I just can't make my books balance," said one woman. "I spent so much time trying to make them come out right that I neglected my work."

They say two and two make four," said another, "and perhaps it does on an adding machine, but I can't do my work and keep books, too. It takes too long to get a balance."

FARMERS SEIZE WATER SYSTEM; SAVE CROPS

Californians Bring Quarrel Over Time For Payment to a Climax.

IRRIGATE CROPS, NOTIFY JUDGE

Announce Willingness To Submit To Peaceful Adjudication Of Dispute.

ROVILLE, Calif., May 14.—Fifty land owners, patrons of the Grudley Land and Water company, have taken forcible possession of the water system to save their crops on 2000 acres, it became known today. The seizure took place yesterday.

A long controversy between the land owners and representatives of the water company, relative to time of payment for irrigation, resulted in the shutting off of the water. Crops were threatened with destruction.

Water Users Seize Pipes.

Guards in charge, irrigated the crops and then notified superior Judge Gregory of the seizure. They are now awaiting the court's decision on the matter.

Meanwhile, the water users declare they will remain in possession of the system, using such water as is necessary to save their crops.

Advantages Of 20 Cent Loaf Argued In Chicago

CHICAGO, Ill., May 14.—With the 15 cent loaf already on the market, Chicago today faced a possible further increase in bread prices. Charles A. Pasch, president of the Illinois Master Bakers' association, said his organization had decided that even 20 cents is not too much to charge for a loaf and that because of the saving in wrapping labor such a loaf can be made which will weigh 2-1/4 times as much as a ten cent loaf and yet leave the same profit.

Onions and Potatoes Used Instead of Trading Stamps.

New York, May 14.—In the sections of the city where the trading stamp was popular before the advent of war, the onion and potato have been substituted. In the Ridgewood section of Brooklyn a small potato or onion is given with each ten cent purchase.

The motion picture houses also have adopted the same scheme, giving an onion or potato with each adult ticket.

CANADIAN WHEAT CROP SUFFERS SEVERE LOSSES

OTTAWA, Ont., May 14.—The area estimated to be sown to winter wheat last fall is \$2,500,000, according to the first Canadian crop report of condition up to the end of April, issued today.

The total estimated destruction through winter killing is 157,000 bushels of fall sown wheat or 23 percent. The condition of winter wheat is reported to be 69 percent. This is a lower percentage than any previous record for the same date since 1909 and reflects the exceptional severity of the last winter.

The proportion of wheat seeding completed on April 26 is 13 percent as against 27 percent last year and 24 percent in 1915; for oats the proportion is 12 percent against eight percent last year and 45 percent in 1915 and for barley, it is nine percent as against three in 1915, and 38 percent in 1915.

BRITISH REPULSE RAIDS AND TAKE A FEW PRISONERS

LONDON, Eng., May 14.—"Hostile raids were repulsed last night north of Epsey and north of Ypres," the 21st official announcement. "We secured a few prisoners."

We progressed during the night in Roux village (Arras front.)"

Early Registry Of Owners Of Arms And Munitions, 150

OWNERS of firearms and ammunition who are not engaged in the business of selling such arms and munitions started registering their weapons Monday with city clerk Jack Dawson, in compliance with the new ordinance passed by the council. More than 150 persons had registered at noon Monday. A special office has been opened for this purpose in the council chamber and will be kept open on Saturday afternoon.

The ordinance provides that within ten days after its passage, which was last Thursday, all persons or firms in this city, not engaged in the sale of firearms and other munitions must register with the city clerk. Persons who violate this ordinance are subject to a fine not exceeding \$250 or the confiscation of their weapons.

HAVE "GAMBLERS" MEMBERS SUGGEST AS STORM BREAKS PIRATES AND ROBBERS, EPTIES APPLIED TO THE PRICE BOOSTERS

Senator Thomas, of Colorado, Proposes Amendment to Espionage Bill Providing for Suspension, During War of All Boards of Trade, Stock Exchanges or Other Organizations Permitting Speculation in Food Futures.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 14.—The unrestrained wrath of the senate was poured down upon food gamblers and speculators today in one of the most remarkable scenes in the history of the chamber.

"Pirates" and "robbers" were terms frequently applied to those who profit by speculation in food in the hour of the nation's need. The likelihood of food speculators being hanged to lamp posts was hinted at.

The storm broke when senator Thomas, Democrat, of Colorado, proposed an amendment to the administration espionage bill, a provision to suspend for the duration of the war all boards of trade, stock exchanges or chambers of commerce which permit speculation in futures in food.

Drastic Action Favored.

Senators who opposed it did so on the ground that the object should be to curtail speculation, not to stop food gambling and speculation.

Senator Lewis, Democrat, said he favored legislation such as proposed by senator Thomas would work injury to many and should not be passed without deliberation.

Need Food Control Bill.

"If this is adopted," he said, "you will force the grain in the bins into the hands of those who are hoarding it out to the country. What is needed at this hour is a provision of law authorizing the president, on evidence satisfactory to him that food is being hoarded, to seize such food and order its distribution with compensation to the owner at the best market price assured the people."

Cry of Famine Raises Prices.

"I think," said senator Reid, Democrat, of Missouri, "that means ought to be taken to stop speculation in food, while the law is on the books of congress. But it is a wonder to me today that we do not have \$1 wheat and 40 cent cotton and 45 or 46 potatoes and beef 50 or 60 cents a pound. We are practically told that the United States is on the verge of starvation and that the world without is starving and are informed that when winter comes the wolf of the famine will be upon the door of every human being in the world."

Belgian Socialist Leader Approves Parley in Sweden

Copenhagen, Denmark, May 14.—Emile Vandervelde, the Belgian Socialist leader and minister of munitions in Belgium, is quoted by the Social Democrats, the Stockholm Socialist newspaper, as declaring he supports the peace conference to be held in the Swedish capital by the Socialists.

COAST JUDGE REFUSES TO SIT IN BOMB TRIALS.

San Francisco, Calif., May 14.—Superior Judge Frank Dunne today denied a motion seeking his disqualification to sit on any of the bomb murder cases now pending, on affidavits filed by bomb defendants' attorneys, alleging bias and prejudice.

Judge Dunne then announced that he would voluntarily refuse to try any of the cases.

Program For Bankers Week Has Busy Tuesday Session

FOLLOWING is the program for the first day of the convention of the Texas Bankers' association, to open in the Texas Grand theater Tuesday:

MORNING SESSION.

10:30 a. m.—Call to order by president Butler.

10:31 a. m.—Invocation by Rev. C. L. Overstreet.

10:35 a. m.—Address of welcome, by mayor Charles Davis.

10:50 a. m.—President's address, J. W. Butler, president First Guaranty State Bank, Clifton, Texas.

11:30 a. m.—"Banks and Bankers," an address by F. M. Law, vice president, First National bank, Houston.

General discussion, introduction of resolutions, and motions.

Adjournment for luncheon.

Immediately after adjournment, members of the American Bankers' association will meet in convention hall to elect a vice president, a member of executive council, a member, alternate, for nominating committee, and vice presidents for Texas of the following sections: trust company, savings bank, national bank and state bank sections.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2:00 p. m.—"Federal Farm Loan Act," an address by Adolph Boldt, assistant cashier, Lumberman's National bank, Houston.

2:35 p. m.—"Bank Democracy," an address by Col. George E. Allen, secretary state bank section and educational director, American Bankers' association, New York.

3:05 p. m.—"Cashier, Competition and the Community," an address by J. J. Taylor, "State Press," Dallas News, Dallas.

Adjournment for entertainment features.

4:00 p. m.—Trip to the El Paso smelter. Special train will leave the El Paso and Southwestern building at 4 p. m.

8:30 p. m.—Dance at the Country club for visitors. Special street cars will leave the postoffice at 8 o'clock.